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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
E.O. 12065: GDS 11/28/86 (IMMERMAN, R. M.) OR-P
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SHUM, KLAB, JA, KS
SUBJECT: (U) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN KIM DAE JUNG CASE
REF: (A) TOKYO 20913; (B) SEOUL 15809

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: IN THE LAST 48 HOURS GOJ HAS BEGUN TO TAKE PAINS TO PREVENT THE RECENT FINANCIAL PRESS FLAP OVER KIM DAE JUNG FROM DEVELOPING INTO A FULL-SCALE WAR OF WORDS, APPARENTLY WITH SOME SUCCESS. THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR STATEMENTS ABOUT KIM. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE MAJOR DAILIES HAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED GOJ. THE MOST TROUBLESOME PROBLEM HAS BEEN THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (SOHYO), WHICH HAS THREATENED TO BOYCOTT SOUTH KOREAN GOODS AND REFUSE TO HANDLE CARGO GOING TO OR COMING FROM ROK IN REACTION TO THE KIM CASE.

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END SUMMARY.

3. IN LAST 48 HOURS GOJ HAS BEGUN TO TAKE PAINS TO PREVENT THE RECENT FINANCIAL PRESS FLAP OVER KIM DAE JUNG FROM DEVELOPING INTO A FULL-SCALE WAR OF WORDS, APPARENTLY WITH SOME SUCCESS. THE ASAHI REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THE KIM CASE AT ALL IN A NOV. 26 APPEARANCE BEFORE AN UPPER HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (ON ELECTION LAW REVISION), SAYING HE DID NOT WANT TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT HIS SILENCE WOULD HELP CALM MATTERS DOWN. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY MIYAZAWA ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE 25TH THAT EARLIER IN THE DAY, DURING JAPANESE EMBASSY CHARGE MURAOKA'S MEETING WITH ROK VICE MINISTER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Teeple DATE 8/18/82
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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KIM DONG-WHIE, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT BOTH THE JAPANESE AND ROK SIDES SHOULD WORK TO CALM THE TENSE SITUATION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED. ACCORDING TO NOV. 27 NIHON KEIZAI, HOWEVER, MIYAZAWA ALSO THAT IT IS A FACT THE GOJ IS GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT KIM AND HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SAY SO IF THE ISSUE IS RAISED IN THE DIET. HE IS QUOTED TO THE EFFECT THAT HE DID NOT THINK GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO DIET INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM WOULD CAUSE ANY "RIPPLES" IN JAPANESE-KOREAN RELATIONS.

4. NOV. 26 EVENING AND NOV. 27 MORNING PAPERS CARRIED REPORTS [redacted] THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ITO, IN HIS NOV. 26 ADDRESS TO THE EA AND PACIFIC CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING NOW IN PROGRESS HERE, TONED DOWN THE ALREADY RATHER INNOCUOUS LANGUAGE ON KIM PREPARED FOR HIM. [redacted] TO IS QUOTED AS SAYING ONLY "WE WISH TO MAINTAIN JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS AND MAINTAIN PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA."

5. THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED BEFORE THE UPPER HOUSE CABINET COMMITTEE ON NOV. 27 WHERE HE WAS CLOSELY QUESTIONED ABOUT KIM. HIS REPLIES, AS CARRIED IN THE NOV. 28 ASAHI, WERE NIMBLE AND EVASIVE. SUZUKI REPEATED THE [redacted] -- GRAVE CONCERN AND -- CAREFUL WATCHFULNESS -- AND REITERATED THAT IT IS BETTER TO AVOID COMMENTING ON THE CASE WHILE IT IS STILL BEFORE THE COURTS. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO SPECULATION AS TO WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO IF KIM WERE EXECUTED. WHILE NOTING THAT THE GOJ IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO KIM'S FATE, HE REPORTEDLY SAID THE ROKG WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION, WHICH IS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE KOREANS THEMSELVES TO DECIDE. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION CONCERNING HIS "TRUE INTENTIONS" IN HIS TALK WITH ROK AMBASSADOR CHOI ON NOV. 21, THE PM IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS AS A FRIEND OF SOUTH KOREA, STANDING ON THE PREMISE THAT WE MUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS AND WISHING TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE." WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE INTENDED TO SEND A LETTER TO ROK PRESIDENT CHUN CONCERNING KIM, SUZUKI SAID IN EFFECT THAT HE HAD NOT DECIDED WHAT HE WOULD DO IN THAT REGARD.

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE MAJOR DAILIES HAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT. MAINICHI AND ASAHI CONCLUDE THAT GOJ CANNOT STAND BY SILENTLY ON THE KIM ISSUE. JAPAN, THEY ARGUE, HAS TOO MUCH AT STAKE BOTH DOMESTICALLY

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AND INTERNATIONALLY. YOMIURI SHIMBUN EDITORIALIZED ON THE 27TH THAT SUZUKI, IN HIS TALK WITH AMBASSADOR CHOI, EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON THE KIM CASE MUCH MORE FRANKLY THAN IN THE PAST. AFTER EXPRESSING PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY THE ROKG DECIDED TO LEAK THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SUZUKI-CHOI TALKS, THE YOMIURI EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT ALL FREE COUNTRIES WILL DEAL HARSHLY WITH SOUTH KOREA IF KIM IS EXECUTED AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ROK WILL ACT REASONABLY.
7. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP) CRITICIZED THE PM ON THE 27TH FOR BEING "TOO CARELESS" IN HIS HANDLING OF THE KIM ISSUE -- DSP POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EUCHI NAGASUE IS QUOTED AS CALLING CRITICISM OF THE ROK OVER KIM "INTERFERENCE" IN SOUTH KOREA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS -- A MORE TROUBLESOME PROBLEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT IS THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (SOHYO). SOHYO ANNOUNCED ON NOV. 27 THAT IT WILL LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN TO BOYCOTT SOUTH KOREAN GOODS SOLD IN JAPAN IF THE SOUTH KOREAN SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST KIM DAE-JUNG. IN AN ADDRESS TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY WORKERS'
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UNION, SOHYO SECRETARY GENERAL MITSUO TOMIZUKA ALSO CALLED ON THE ALL JAPAN HARBOR WORKERS' UNION (ZENKOWAN) TO REFUSE TO HANDLE CARGO GOING TO OR COMING FROM SOUTH KOREA BETWEEN DEC. 3-5 AND URGED THE RAILWAY AND EXPRESS WORKERS' UNIONS TO REFUSE TO TRANSPORT KOREAN GOODS WITHIN JAPAN IF THE SENTENCE IS UPHELD. NOV. 28 EVENING EDITION OF NIHON KEIZAI REPORTED THAT THE ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS EXPRESSED RESENTMENT AT TOMIZUKA'S ANNOUNCEMENT, CALLING THE SOHYO THREAT "ECONOMIC INTIMIDATION."
8. AT THE LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON NOV. 28, FM ITO WAS ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THE SUSPENSION OF YEN LOANS TO THE ROK IF KIM WERE EXECUTED. ITO REPLIED THAT, IF THE WORST WERE TO

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HAPPEN, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN COMPLETELY NORMAL RELATIONS, BUT REFUSED TO SPECULATE WHAT GOJ WOULD ACTUALLY DO IN SUCH A SITUATION. HOWEVER, NOV. 28 NIHON KEIZEI REPORTED THAT IT IMPLIED A SUSPENSION OF THE YEN LOANS WOULD BE ONE MEASURE CONSIDERED.

9. COMMENT: GOJ IS ACTING IN A RESTRAINED MANNER TO PREVENT GREATER AGGRAVATION OF THIS MOST RECENT IRRITANT IN KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS. JAPANESE PRESS HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO CREATE A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE. THE BIGGEST PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT IS SOHYO, WHICH IN ADDITION TO THE LIMITED BOYCOTT AND STRIKES MENTIONED ABOVE, HAS INDICATED IT WILL PRESS THE GOJ TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH KOREA IF THE DEATH SENTENCE IS UPHELD.

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